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National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21*

Argentina

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I. Methodology

1. This report was prepared by the Directorate of Legal Affairs in respect of Human Rights of the Secretariat for Human Rights, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and the Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship.

II. Normative and institutional framework

Treaties

- Act No. 27.137 adopting the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Act No. 27.246 adopting the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Act No. 27.270 adopting the Paris Agreement adopted in Paris on 12 December 2015, on climate change
- Act No. 27.318 adopting the amendment to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

Laws

- Act No. 26.844 on the special employment contract regime for persons employed in private homes
- Act No. 26.847 amending the Criminal Code (art. 148 bis) in relation to exploitation of child labour
- Act No. 26.842 amending Act No. 26.364, on trafficking in persons
- Act. No. 26.844 on the special employment contract regime for persons employed in private homes
- Act No. 26.791 amending the Criminal Code in relation to the crime of femicide
- Act No. 26.811 establishing a National Day against Institutional Violence
- Act No. 26.827 establishing the National System for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Act No. 26.861 on democracy and equal opportunities in recruitment to the judiciary and the Public Prosecution Service
- Act No. 26.862 on medically assisted reproduction
- Act No. 26.879 creating the national register of genetic data related to crimes against sexual integrity
- Act No. 26.892 promoting peaceful coexistence in educational institutions
- Act No. 26.894 extending until 2017 the state of emergency concerning the possession of the lands traditionally occupied by indigenous communities
- Act No. 26.994 adopting the Civil and Commercial Code
- Act No. 26.904 amending the Criminal Code (art. 131) in relation to the crime of "grooming"
- Act No. 26.913 establishing a reparations system for former political prisoners
- Act No. 26.921 adopting the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189)

- Act No. 26.928 establishing a comprehensive protection system for transplant patients
- Act No. 27.039 setting up a special fund and national toll-free helpline "144" for victims of gender-based violence
- Act No. 27.044 granting constitutional rank to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Act No. 27.045 making preschool education compulsory for children of four years
- Act No. 27.046 making it compulsory to display a sign on the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents
- Act No. 27.054 establishing the Federal Health Legislation Council
- Act No. 27.126 establishing the Federal Intelligence Agency
- Act No. 27.130 on suicide prevention
- Act No. 27.150 on the progressive implementation of the Code of Criminal Procedure, adopted by Act No. 27.063
- Act No. 27.145 on the designation of alternate judges by the Council of the Magistrature
- Act No. 27.146 on the organization and competence of the federal and national criminal justice systems
- Organic Act No. 27.148 on the Public Prosecution Office
- Act No. 27.156 prohibiting judicial pardons, amnesties and commutation of sentences for crimes against humanity
- Act No. 27.176 establishing a National Day against Gender-based Violence
- Act No. 27.183 establishing the posts of public defenders before the Supreme Court
- Act No. 27.210 establishing a pool of lawyers for victims of gender-based violence
- Act No. 27.234 on equality in education
- Act No. 27.237 adopting the Convention on Parental Responsibility and Child Protection Measures
- Act No. 27.252 adopting the ILO Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930
- Act No. 27.260 establishing the National Programme for the Historical Reparation of Retirees and Pensioners
- Act No. 27.272 amending the Code of Criminal Procedure (in relation to cases of flagrante delicto)
- Act No. 27.275 on the right of access to public information
- Act No. 27.302 amending the Criminal Code in relation to drug abuse
- Act No. 27.304 amending the Criminal Code, known as the "law of the repenter"
- Act No. 27.308 unifying single-judge courts and jurisdictions
- Act No. 27.329 establishing an exceptional pension scheme for Malvinas veterans
- Act No. 27.345 extending the social emergency
- Act No. 27.347 amending the Criminal Code (art. 94 bis) in relation to crimes against life
- Act No. 27.350 on the medicinal use of cannabis
- Act No. 27.352 amending the Criminal Code (art. 119) in relation to the sexual abuse of children

- Act No. 27.362 limiting the application of the so-called "2 x 1" law in cases of crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes
- Act No. 27.363 amending the Civil and Commercial Code (art. 700 bis) in relation to divestment of parental responsibility

Institutional framework

2. Pursuant to Decree No. 13/2015[1] and Decree No. 513/2017,[2] the Law on Ministries was amended in such a way that the office of the National Executive is now composed of the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers and 20 ministers.

3. Within the National Secretariat for Human Rights, now called the Ministry of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism, a number of new directorates were established.[3]

4. Five justices currently sit on the Supreme Court, as provided for by Act No. 26.183.

III. Follow-up to recommendations

A. International obligations (recommendations 99.1; 99.2; 99.3; 99.4; 99.22; 99.23)

5. Argentina ratified the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and ILO Convention No. 189 in 2014 and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2015.

6. While the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control has not been ratified, Act No. 26.687 (2011)[4] regulates the advertising, promotion and consumption of tobacco products produced, taking into account the restrictions and prohibitions provided for under the Framework Convention.

7. With regard to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, in April 2015, Argentina reported on its follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

8. Argentina cooperates fully with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The 105th session of the Working Group was held in Buenos Aires in 2015.

9. In August 2016, Argentina submitted the information requested by the Working Group at its 109th session and, in 2017, sent updated information prepared in connection with the programme for the Unified Registry for Victims of State Terrorism.

10. Dialogue on the design and execution of public policies is being sought with institutions and with the public in order to generate socially relevant results.

11. Some examples of this are:[5]

- The third meeting of the Federal Council for Combating Trafficking in Persons and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims;[6] the mission of the Council is to design a plan of action for combating trafficking in persons, while monitoring compliance with existing standards. Three non-governmental organizations (NGOs) associated with the topic participated in the meeting, in which they had speaking and voting rights.
- The implementing regulations for Act No. 25.275 (access to public information) were the result of much discussion and public consultations, in which civil society considered the need to regulate some aspects of the law.
- The National Council for Women works with the support of civil society organizations and of society as a whole, through the Directorate of Administrative Management and Special Programmes, with a view to strengthening inter-institutional coordination at the provincial and municipal levels, disseminating

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relevant information on women's rights and promoting cooperation with academic institutions.

B. Children (recommendations 99.8; 99.10; 99.11; 99.20; 99.74; 99.75)

12. The majority of Argentine provinces have specific laws on the comprehensive protection of children. Some have specific rules for proceedings involving adolescent offenders or alleged offenders.

13. The strengthening of each jurisdiction's rights protection system requires the training of the systems' operators and the development of action protocols that incorporate protection into the juvenile justice system. This in turn makes it possible to take a comprehensive approach to the rights and safeguards relating to children and their families.

14. Act No. 26.061 on the comprehensive protection of the rights of children and adolescents exists alongside the provincial laws. Of the 24 jurisdictions in Argentina, 23 have their own provincial laws and also comply with the national law, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the optional protocols thereto.

15. All jurisdictions have operated their own systems for the comprehensive protection of rights, institutionally and administratively, and reorganized their specific units accordingly.

16. The provinces and the City of Buenos Aires are represented in the Federal Council for Children, Adolescents and the Family, which discusses and develops public policy for children and adolescents at the federal level, by coordinating and incorporating the various municipalities and local communities in its activities.

17. Santiago del Estero, Chaco, Neuquén, Tucumán, Córdoba, Entre Ríos, San Luis, Catamarca, La Pampa, Santa Fe, the City of Buenos Aires and Tierra del Fuego plan and carry out comprehensive programmes by providing their teams with basic and specialized training.

18. With regard to recommendation 99.10, the implementation of Act No. 26.061 in the current juvenile criminal justice system produced the following results: in 2015, the juvenile prison population in the entire national territory was 3,908 adolescents (0.14 per cent of the total population aged 14 to 17), including 412 children under the age of 16 and 3,496 children between the ages of 16 and 17. Accommodation has been provided to these children through 118 types of living arrangements, including 31 socioeducational residences (26.3 per cent) and 61 facilities of deprivation of liberty (51.7 per cent); and 26 supervision and monitoring programmes (22 per cent).

19. With regard to legal defence services, 97.6 per cent of children participating in supervision programmes benefit from formal defence counsel, as do 92.4 per cent of adolescents living in establishments of restriction of liberty and 90.6 per cent of adolescents living in establishments of deprivation of liberty. In total, 96.19 per cent benefit from formal defence services.

20. For further information, please see the report CRC/C/ARG/5-6.[7]

Birth registration

21. Given the numerous cases of citizens aged 12 years or older who are members of indigenous communities and who are unable to prove their identity for lack of the necessary national identity document, a birth registration system was set up for newborns and children up to 12 years old.[8]

22. Argentina has developed mobile documentation units (Act No. 26.413), establishing that where there are no public officials responsible for registering births, the general directorate will assign the necessary powers to the officials on site and/or will set up mobile offices to register the births.

23. The Federal Council for Children, Adolescents and the Family have urged registries to automatically carry out the administrative registration of births; has requested

educational institutions to provide information about registration; and has called for the removal of obstacles to the right to education, the exemption of fees and fines and the promotion of free legal aid in situations requiring registration by the courts.

24. With regard to recommendation 99.20 on achieving Millennium Development Goal 5, reference is made to paragraph 6.

C. Vulnerable groups (recommendations 99.18; 99.19)

25. Given that Argentina has recently submitted reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the following highlights some noteworthy protection measures during the 2012-2016 period.

26. Argentina has made progress in recognizing differences and respecting the rights of vulnerable groups, while bearing in mind the need to ensure equality for all.

27. In follow-up to commitments arising from international instruments, recommendations of oversight bodies and the universal periodic review, and in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the human rights action plan (RESOL-2017-174-APN-SECDHYPC#MJ of March 2017) focuses on five areas:

(a) Inclusion, non-discrimination and equality;

(b) Public safety and non-violence;

(c) Memory, truth, justice and reparation policies;

(d) Universal access to rights;

(e) Civic culture and commitment to human rights.

Children

28. The National Secretariat for Children, Young Persons and the Family provided training to provincial authorities involved in institutional transformation, within the framework of the Comprehensive Protection Act No. 26.061, with broad buy-in by the provinces.

29. In September 2016, it introduced the "Argentina Teaches and Learns" National Strategic Plan 2016-2021, which aims to provide "all children, adolescents, young people and adults with socially significant knowledge and capacities for their overall development in conditions of equality and respect for diversity."

Children and indigenous peoples

30. In 2016, the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory and Participatory Council was set up. One of the Council's functions is to participate in programmes and plans for indigenous communities, on issues related to education, health, gender, youth, child protection, older persons, the elderly, disability and assistance to victims.

Intercultural education

31. Intercultural education has been incorporated into the education system as part of the recognition of ethnic diversity. The National Education Act provides for the inclusion of issues related to gender, human rights and the culture of indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples in the common core curriculum.

Housing

32. In 2017, national housing plans were developed to ease the housing shortage for those with scant resources; also in 2017, a national housing infrastructure plan was introduced to improve poor urban areas and the country's most vulnerable communities.

through investment in basic infrastructure (water and sanitation), vehicular and pedestrian infrastructure, public spaces, community facilities and better housing.[9]

D. Gender (recommendations 99.6; 99.7; 99.24; 99.25; 99.26; 99.88)

33. Since 2015, the Supreme Court administers the national femicide register, which covers all cases of violent deaths of women (girls, adolescents and adults) perpetrated for gender-related reasons, whether or not they were classified as femicide.

34. Act No. 24.012, on quotas, makes it compulsory to include a minimum of 30 per cent of women on electoral lists for national legislative positions.

35. The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security has made progress in designing and executing public policies aimed at promoting equal opportunities for men and women. The following are noteworthy examples:

- Introduction of the "gender and labour market bulletin", containing indicators on the situation of women in the labour market.
- "New Trades for Women" programme: aimed at training women in non-traditional activities, this programme promotes better salaries (20 to 30 per cent more than in traditional jobs); more recognition; and better employment opportunities.
- Training for trade unions: awareness-raising activities and training on gender equality for trade union representatives and mid-level managers.
- Tripartite Commission on Equal Opportunities: representing the State sector, business and labour unions, this Commission seeks to promote equal treatment and opportunities in the world of work through social dialogue and to promote the creation of provincial tripartite commissions.[10]

36. The office set up to record, classify and follow-up on femicide cases[11] carries out qualitative studies and provides guidance, from a human rights perspective, on public policies aimed at preventing femicide and providing reparations. To that end, it provides training and workshops on gender mainstreaming with a human rights-based approach for municipal and provincial officials and security officers, in coordination with provincial and municipal governments.

E. Domestic violence (recommendations 99.46; 99.47; 99.48; 99.49; 99.50; 99.51; 99.52; 99.53; 99.54; 99.55; 99.56; 99.57; 99.58; 99.59; 99.60; 99.61)

37. In 2016, the first national action plan for prevention, protection, assistance and eradication of violence against women was adopted, in compliance with Act No. 26.485, article 9 (a).

38. The toll-free helpline 144 offers information, access to justice and support to women in violent situations throughout the country, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is operated by interdisciplinary teams who have been trained in gender perspective.

39. Statistics on the calls are presented in monthly reports prepared by the Observatory on Violence against Women. These statistics are public and are posted on the website of the National Council for Women.[12]

40. A framework protocol for shelters has been adopted, with a view to strengthening local response in preventing, punishing and eradicating gender-based violence and in assisting victims. The protocol provides guidelines on how to detect and take action in situations of gender-based violence and how to monitor such situations.

41. The "Victims against Violence" programme aims to support victims of abuse and ill-treatment resulting from various types of violence. One of its focuses is providing care and support for victims of domestic and sexual violence through the 137 helpline (in the City of Buenos Aires and in Misiones) and for victims of child sexual abuse and their families

through the 0800-222-1717 helpline. Both are run by psychologists and social workers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In urgent or emergency situations (in the City of Buenos Aires and in Misiones), a mobile team takes victims to the hospital or helps them to make a complaint, depending on the situation, and provides legal support to promote access to justice for victims and their families.

42. In November 2016, a national campaign against child sexual abuse was launched by the President of Argentina together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Argentina, with a view to raising awareness about the offence of child sexual abuse. This campaign encourages people to call the national helpline 0800-222-1717, which is operated 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

43. The "Victims against Violence" programme is also supported by the "Equipo Niñas" team against grooming and the "Argentina Matters to Us" campaign. Information on the initiatives carried out by the "Equipo Niñas" team against child sexual exploitation, grooming and child pornography and the helpline 0800-222-1717 is available on Google.

44. During the campaign conducted from 19 November 2016 to 12 February 2017, a total of 2,103 calls were received; of these, 754 involved cases of child sexual abuse and 540 were requests for guidance.

Statistics on helpline 137 and mobile support teams for victims of violence

- Line 137: handled 124,993 calls from October 2006 to May 2017.
- Mobile team against domestic violence: assisted 28,823 victims, 16,603 of whom were girls and adolescents.
- Mobile team against sexual violence: assisted 10,754 victims of sexual abuse, 5,634 of whom were girls and adolescents (data for October 2016 to March 2017).
- Legal assistance provided to victims between January and March 2017: 292 women, 23 men and 1 transgender individual, for a total of 316 victims.

45. In 2016, a total of 6,070 non-commissioned federal police officers and 200 non-commissioned metropolitan police officers were given mandatory training on gender-based violence.

46. A total of 2,081 reports were submitted to civil courts by the interdisciplinary group on protection against family violence. These included preliminary reports on family interaction and preliminary risk (1,583 reports) and responses to requests for information from the courts, public prosecutors and public defenders (498 reports).

47. The single register of cases of violence against women is maintained by the National Statistics and Census Institute. The digital software used provides for the monitoring of the entire information distribution process and a digital datasheet that makes it easier to input data and deliver them to the agencies that need them.[13]

48. The Observatory on Violence against Women of the National Council for Women was established by Act No. 26.485 for the purposes of monitoring, collecting and recording data on violence against women. Its mission is to develop an information system to inform the management of public policies aimed at preventing and eradicating violence against women.[14]

49. Information on older persons, children and adolescents in situations of violence can be found on the web page of the National Council for Women.

50. Act No. 26.879 established a national register of genetic data related to crimes against sexual integrity, to be administered by the Ministry of Justice.[15]

51. In 2017, Act No. 27.352, which provides more detailed information on the actions covered by the offence of sexual abuse, was promulgated.

F. Sexual and reproductive rights (recommendations 99.89; 99.90; 99.91; 99.92; 99.93; 99.94; 99.95; 99.96)

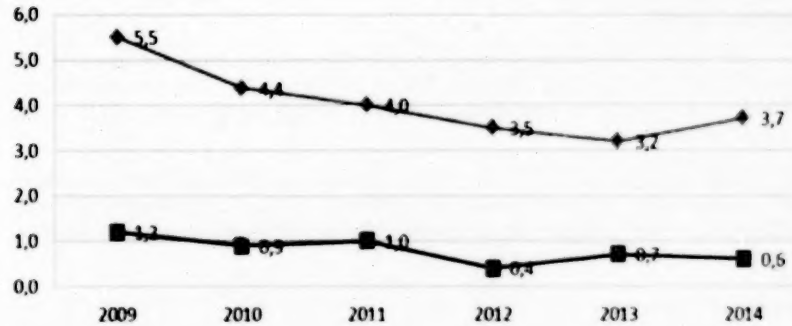
52. The national programme for sexual health and responsible procreation was established by Act No. 25.673. The 0800 national helpline on sexual and reproductive health is free and confidential, and provides comprehensive information on sexual and reproductive rights for the entire population.

53. By calling the 0800 helpline, individuals can receive information on contraception, including emergency contraception, and on the related obligations of the authorities of the public health system, of the national and provincial social insurance schemes and of other health insurance providers; on the rights of health-care users and on sexual violence and sexual abuse of children; on post-abortion care, legal termination of pregnancy, cervical cancer and breast cancer; on the sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents; and on providing care to the LGBT population, and on sexual dysfunctions and medically assisted reproduction. Callers may also submit complaints and follow-up on such complaints.

Maternal mortality ratio

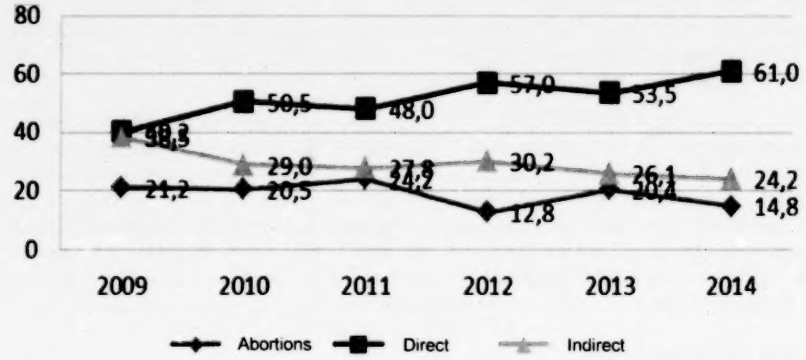
54. The maternal mortality ratio declined from 5.5 maternal deaths per 10,000 live births (in 2009) to 3.7 (in 2014). The disparities between provinces with regard to the maternal mortality ratio also diminished over the same period, as reflected in the Gini coefficient, which rose from 0.265 in 2009 to 0.233 in 2013. The maternal mortality ratio for pregnancies that were terminated by abortion dropped from 1.2 to 0.6 maternal deaths in pregnancies terminated by abortion for every 10,000 live births, as shown in the following graph:

Maternal mortality ratio and maternal mortality ratio for pregnancies terminated by abortion. The Argentine Republic. 2009-2014. Source: Department of Health Statistics and Information — Ministry of Health.



55. The following graph shows the decrease of the percentage of abortion-related maternal deaths compared to deaths from other causes: abortion-related deaths rose from 21.2 per cent in 2009 to 14.8 per cent in 2014.

Per cent of total maternal deaths in Argentina according to cause. 2009-2014. Source: Department of Health Statistics and Information — Ministry of Health.



56. In 2009, the Ministry of Health, together with a few administrative health regions of Buenos Aires province and other high-priority areas, signed an operational plan for the reduction of the mortality of children, women and adolescents.[16]

57. This followed the training of professionals for obstetric emergencies, the reorganization of obstetric services and the quality of prenatal check-ups, among others.

58. The national Government has taken steps to uphold the right of women to make family planning decisions, to improve the supply of and access to contraception and timely gynaecological care, and to advise on effective access to emergency contraception in order to avoid future unplanned pregnancies.

Teenage pregnancy

59. The fertility rate among adolescents (15 to 19 years old) showed an upward trend from 2009 to 2011, reaching 68.2 per cent in the year 2011. The rate then shifted downwards, dropping to 65.6 per thousand in 2012, to 64.9 per thousand in 2013 and to 65.1 per thousand in 2014.

60. Teenage motherhood is closely related to socioeconomic development, leading to significant disparities among the country's provinces. In 2014, the adolescent fertility rate was 29.6 per thousand in the City of Buenos Aires and 99.4 per thousand in Misiones province.

Contraceptive methods

61. Free access is guaranteed to a comprehensive basket of contraceptive methods, which are made available throughout the country. The target population is women and men of reproductive age who are not covered under social insurance or other health insurance schemes.

62. According to information provided by the provinces, in 2014, a total of 8,698 hospitals and health centres were distributing contraception, as against 5,400 in 2009.[17]

Legal framework for non-punishable abortions

63. Since one of the main causes of maternal mortality is unsafe abortions carried out on women facing unplanned pregnancies, the national Government has taken steps to uphold the right of persons to take decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health, to improve the supply of and access to contraception and to ensure that women confronted with an unplanned pregnancy receive timely, non-discriminatory and humane care, together with guidance and effective access to contraception after an obstetric event in order to avoid future unplanned pregnancies.

64. In 2015, the protocol for the comprehensive care of persons entitled to legal termination of pregnancy — a revised version of the technical guide for comprehensive care in relation to non-punishable abortions, developed in 2010 — was issued under the national programme for sexual health and responsible procreation.[18]

65. Access to legal termination of pregnancy on any of the four grounds set out in the Criminal Code is one of the priority focuses of the national programme for sexual health and responsible procreation.[19]

66. Legal termination of pregnancy must be carried out in accordance with standards relating to quality, accessibility, confidentiality, technical expertise, the range of available options and up-to-date scientific information.

67. Comprehensive post-abortion care is imperative to reduce the maternal mortality ratio. It is composed of three core elements: (a) immediate treatment using the manual vacuum aspiration technique; (b) reproductive health guidance; and (c) referral to the relevant responsible parenthood services following the abortion.

68. Under the national programme for sexual health and responsible procreation, a guide has been developed on comprehensive care for women who undergo an abortion. This tool helps to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality and to improve the quality of care with regard to sexual and reproductive rights.[20] The guide is to be used by health teams that conduct related consultations, such as hospital obstetrics and gynaecology departments and primary health care centres.

69. Under the national programme for sexual health and responsible procreation, provinces are requested to provide information annually on access to and availability of abortion services in provincial health-care systems, in order to monitor the situation at the national level.

G. Trafficking in persons (recommendations 99.62; 99.63; 99.64; 99.65)

70. Argentina has adopted a proactive approach by creating tools that enable the early detection of trafficking cases, through the use of protocols for action, victim assistance programmes and labour inspections.

71. In 2012, Act No. 26.364 was amended by Act No. 26.842.[21] The amendments, which related to article 145 bis and ter of the Criminal Code, eliminated the distinction between minors and adults with regard to consent; increased the penalties for the crime of trafficking in persons and for related offences; and added new forms of exploitation and aggravating factors.

72. A federal council to combat the trafficking and exploitation of persons and to protect and assist the victims thereof was established as a permanent forum for institutional coordination in monitoring all trafficking-related issues. It is composed of representatives of the national and provincial authorities, of the Public Prosecution Service and of NGOs.

73. In 2013, an executive committee was set up to combat trafficking and exploitation of persons and to protect and assist victims. It has operational independence and is composed of representatives from four ministries.

74. Within the Public Prosecution Service, the Prosecution Unit for Combating Human Trafficking and Exploitation provides assistance to prosecutors throughout the country in handling cases of kidnapping for purposes of ransom and trafficking.

75. In 2014, the Public Prosecution Service issued a practical guide on searching for missing persons, which provides guidelines for investigations into the disappearance of alleged victims of trafficking. It also contains a specific protocol on the treatment of victims, aimed at preventing revictimization.

76. Introduced in 2012, the National Trafficking Victims Rescue and Assistance Programme of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights is coordinated with the federal law enforcement agencies in order to combat and prevent trafficking and assist its victims. The Programme is carried out in conjunction with the Public Prosecution Service.

77. The Unit for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Human Trafficking of the National Secretariat for Children, Young Persons and the Family provides comprehensive care and support for victims. Since 2012, the National Secretariat for Children, Young Persons and the Family has run a programme on the handling of cases of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual abuse, including a subprogramme on sexual exploitation, which reflects its focus on training.

78. The 102 helpline for children's welfare is operated by the Secretariat 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with trained personnel who coordinate responses with specialized regional and municipal teams.

79. In 2016, the Ministry of Social Development, UNICEF Argentina and Child Helpline International submitted a joint plan for expanding the 102 helpline to the entire country.

80. The Ministry of Security is responsible for the integrated crime information system for trafficking offences known as "SisTrata", which contains quantitative and qualitative information on the action taken by law enforcement agencies in cases of trafficking.

81. A biometric identification system has been introduced to allow for the identification of citizens whose data have been entered in the National Registry of Persons.

82. The Ministry has a handbook on receiving complaints and procedures for detecting and rescuing victims, especially at border crossings, with the assistance of the National Migration Directorate.

83. Argentina is working with other countries in the region, Aerolíneas Argentinas, Aeropuertos Argentina 2000 and the Argentine Federation of Aviation Staff to train staff.

84. Complaints may be submitted via the "145" national hotline, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

H. Eradication of poverty: recommendations 99.85, 99.86 and 99.87, the last of which was not accepted

85. Poverty and social vulnerability are complex, multidimensional realities that go beyond the one dimensional measurement of household income.

86. In 2016, an early childhood national plan was launched with a view to ensuring the comprehensive development of children in situations of social vulnerability.

87. It aims to promote and strengthen forums for the comprehensive care and support of young children to ensure that they enjoy an adequate, healthy diet.

88. The national food security plan aims to ensure access to adequate, sufficient food that is in line with the regional customs of the social vulnerable population being targeted, through programmes that include food cards, food production for home consumption and school meals. The plan is federally operated in all the provinces.

89. An intersectorial initiative was introduced to expand the State's presence in social vulnerable municipalities, by providing a network of basic social services designed to improve social welfare and promote integration.

90. Some of the services offered by this initiative include the issuance of birth certificates and national identity cards; medical care, including ophthalmology, laboratory and medical tests, treatments; the issuance of criminal records; and information on the HoGar Programme, involving the provision of gas cylinders, and on the universal child allowance.

91. During the period 2012-2016, the National Social Security Administration increased efforts to eradicate poverty and to promote equality in the distribution of wealth and access to economic and social well-being for all people, by strengthening existing public social security policies and introducing new policies that increased income adequacy and coverage.

92. The non-contributory subsystem of the family allowances regime (Act No. 24.714) includes:

- Child allowance
- Child with disability allowance
- Prenatal allowance
- Annual school allowance
- Annual school allowance for children with disabilities

93. A special employment contract regime for persons employed in private homes was established and the female employees under that regime became beneficiaries of the family allowances regime.

94. Decree No. 84/2014 established a support programme for Argentine students aged 18 to 24 years.

95. Beginning in 2016, sole proprietors under the simplified tax regime and temporary workers were allowed to benefit from the family allowances regime, thus expanding its coverage.

96. Also in 2016, the law on historical reparation for retirees and pensioners was passed, establishing a universal pension for older persons, with the objective of maintaining the levels of pension coverage.

97. This universal pension is a lifelong allowance, granted by the National Social Security Administration, to persons over 65 years of age who have no other benefits. The amount is equivalent to 80 per cent of a minimum pension and is updated twice a year on the basis of pension rate adjustments (Act No. 26.417). The beneficiaries of the allowance are covered by the comprehensive medical care programme for older persons and have access to family allowances. In addition, they may continue to work in order to accumulate the required number of years of contributions allowing access to an ordinary retirement.

98. With regard to persons deprived of their liberty, the universal child allowance may be paid to a proxy; in such cases, the beneficiary must submit a certificate issued by the prison unit where he or she is in custody. The universal child allowance is paid to those in detention awaiting trial.

99. In 2010, the National Social Security Administration ruled that the exercise of duties within the Technical and Financial Cooperation Unit of the Federal Prison Service was not incompatible with the granting of allowances. The beneficiary must comply with the criteria set out in the regulations and be awaiting trial. The allowance is paid to a proxy.

100. Persons deprived of their liberty who have been convicted and are working in the Technical and Financial Cooperation Unit of the Federal Prison Service or in the Provincial Prison Service of Córdoba are not entitled to receive the universal child allowance, which does not prevent payment of the allowance to the other parent or guardian.

101. The universal child allowance is paid to 2.1 million families for 3.8 million children (data as of January 2017). The current value of the allowance is equal to 1,246 Argentine pesos, or US$ 789.

I. Prevention of torture (recommendations 99.12; 99.13; 99.14; 99.15; 99.16)

102. Act No. 26.827 established the National System for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Its implementing regulations were issued in April 2014 by Decree No. 465/2014.

103. In July 2014, within the Ministry of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism, a unit was set up to implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture; it works with all branches of the State and with civil society. The unit's efforts are focused on supporting the start-up of the National System for the Prevention of Torture and Other

Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; strengthening existing local mechanisms for the prevention of torture; and supporting and providing technical assistance to the provinces in establishing and starting up local mechanisms.

104. Varying degrees of progress have been made in starting up local preventive mechanisms in terms of compliance with the Optional Protocol, the resources allocated and the characteristics of each province, such as prison population size. Argentina provided information in this regard to the Committee against Torture, in April 2017.[17]

105. Progress has been made regarding the selection of the members of the National Committee for the Prevention of Torture, which manages the national mechanism and which must be composed of 13 members: in April 2017, the registration process was opened for NGOs to submit candidates for the three positions to which they are entitled.

J. Prison establishments (recommendations 99.33; 99.36; 99.37; 99.38; 99.39; 99.40; 99.41; 99.42; 99.43; 99.44; 99.45)

Training

106. The Ministry of Security has modernized the curriculum with a view to making vocational training more relevant and overcoming the disconnect between the theory and practice of law enforcement.

107. The changes made relate to the use of force by the police, techniques of self-defence, use of firearms, arrest and detention techniques and the treatment of persons in police care or custody.

108. The Ministry of Security provides training to the Neighbourhood Crime Prevention Unit of the Federal Police Force, to the Neighbourhood Detachment of the Gendarmerie and to staff working for the National Coast Guard. Staff receive training that encompasses domestic and gender-based violence, sexual diversity, inclusion policies, addicts and police tactics, among other topics.

109. In 2012, the annual technical and vocational training plan was established. The directorates of teaching, education and institutes are responsible for ensuring that training activities do not include abusive or discriminatory practices that undermine human rights.

110. As part of the training provided to officers of the Federal Prison Service, there are mandatory refresher courses for future officers and non-commissioned officers that help improve relations among staff and between staff and inmates.

Infrastructure

111. Various projects are being undertaken to expand the facilities of the Federal Prison Service. Progress has been made in the construction of the federal prison of Agote, Mercedes, in Buenos Aires province, and of the coastal prison in Coronda, Santa Fe province, which will provide for 2,150 places. Expansion work begun in various units will add another 500 new places to the prison system.

112. The new facilities will comply with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, or Nelson Mandela Rules, and the recommendations of international organizations.

Conditions of detention; training for persons deprived of their liberty; health; and recreational and cultural activities

113. Under the National Prison Work Programme, the working conditions of persons deprived of their liberty continue to improve and inclusion tools are being generated for persons upon their release from prison. Currently, 74.1 per cent of persons deprived of their liberty in federal prisons do paid work. The National Programme of Cultural Policies for Persons in Detention and Post-Detention Facilities remains in force.

114. The unit responsible for promoting health in detention and post-detention facilities is working towards the social inclusion of the target population through the primary health-

care strategy. Courses for health promoters are offered in various federal establishments; 150 health promoters were given such training in 2016. Also notable has been the promotion of screening for the prevention of breast and cervical cancer in women living in federal prison establishments and health coverage for pregnant women deprived of their liberty in federal prisons.

115. There is also a unit responsible for promoting education in detention and post-detention facilities; this unit also promotes the social inclusion of those released from prison and of their relatives, by seeking to ensure access to education. Currently, 73.19 per cent of persons deprived of their liberty in federal establishments have access to various levels of formal education.

116. The National Programme for the Promotion of Sport in Detention and Post-Detention seeks to involve persons deprived of their liberty through physical activity, thus strengthening their emotional and community ties.

K. Education (recommendations 99.17 and 99.97)

Education

117. The "Argentina Teaches and Learns" National Strategic Plan outlines the high-priority educational focuses and objectives for the period 2016-2021, within the framework of the principles and purposes of the educational policy set out in the National Education Act. It addresses the challenge of upholding the right to education with a view to supporting equal opportunities for all. It encourages enrolment, continuous attendance, learning and graduation through outstanding teaching and learning methods that take into account differences among students.

118. The "Three thousand preschools" plan provides for the construction of preschools, with a view to ensuring universal care for children aged 3, 4 and 5 years old, throughout the country. It also provides for the continuous training of preschool teachers and the establishment of 100 preschool innovation centres throughout the country.

119. A guiding framework for learning proposes new ways to organize learning; new types of teacher training; and ways to provide schools with low learning outcomes with access to materials and events.

120. During the period 2012-2016, training under the National Programme for Comprehensive Sex Education was provided to 44,100 schools and 115,200 teachers.

121. The "Outside of the Classroom" programme seeks to expand the schoolday by giving students the opportunity to participate in sport, the arts and recreational and science activities.

122. The National Teacher Training Plan, developed by the ministers of education of the 23 provinces and the City of Buenos Aires, informs the activities of the National Institute for Teacher Training for the following four years. Under the Plan, which is aimed at improving initial and continuous teacher training system-wide, teachers learn how to help students develop their abilities in order to play a role in society through collaborative work and by developing empathy and critical thinking."

Health

123. Argentina has a universal public health system, with free access to contraceptive methods and treatment against cancer and various diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, for the entire population. A system of public and private health insurances provide health-care coverage to most of the population.

124. The "Sumar" plan — an expanded version of the "Nacer" plan — is aimed at reducing the maternal and infant mortality rate and curbing the number of deaths from cancer of the uterus and breast cancer, as well as offering health-care services for children and adolescents. It provides health coverage throughout the national territory to pregnant

individuals, children, adolescents up to 19 years old and women up to 64 years old who have no health care coverage except that offered by the public health system.

Immunization

125. Argentina continues to allocate resources towards extending the immunization schedule and thus preventing disease. In 2014, pursuant to Act No. 26.796, the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccine was included in the compulsory medical plan for all children in Argentina.

126. As part of the overall national immunization campaign, a campaign was launched in October 2014 to ensure that all children between the ages of 1 and 4 years receive an extra dose of two vaccines — measles and rubella — and another against polio.

127. In 2017, two vaccines were added to the national immunization schedule, under which vaccines are free and compulsory.

Health of indigenous peoples

128. The National Health Programme for Indigenous Peoples was established in 2016 with the aim of reducing inequalities in the health status of indigenous peoples and reducing morbidity and mortality among the indigenous population.

129. An annual publication on core indicators is available on the web page of the Ministry of Health. This joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization, which has been ongoing since 1996, is a compilation of the latest available data from various official sources relating to demographics; socioeconomics; resources, access and coverage; and maternal and child morbidity, mortality and health. It also presents general indicators for Argentina as a whole and includes gender-sensitive information, where available, featuring indicators from the 2010 national population, households and housing census. Also being monitored are the Millennium Development Goal follow-up indicators that are more directly related to health.[24]

L. Discrimination (recommendations 99.21; 99.27; 99.28; 99.29; 99.30; 99.31; 99.32; 99.76; 99.116; 99.117)

130. In 2013, the National Institute to Combat Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism conducted a new study to map discrimination across Argentina. The aim was to compile, analyse, disseminate and publish reliable statistics at the local and national levels and to assess the situation of people and groups of people who suffer from discrimination. The first edition of such a "map" was carried out between 2007 and 2009. The second was conducted in 2013 and published in 2014. The third, work on which was begun in late 2016, is currently in the final stages of production.

131. In 2013, Act No. 26.852 was adopted, establishing 8 November as the National Day of Afro-Argentines and of African Culture.

132. Within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent, the commitment to the recognition and visibility of the Afrodescendent population was reiterated. In 2015, "Captain María Remedios del Valle" research fellowships were introduced. The purpose of the fellowships is to encourage academic research on Afrodescendent identity. Together with civil society organizations, national days of projects and discussion were organized around the Afrodescendent community.

133. The National Institute to Combat Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism promotes materials and awareness-raising activities in order to eradicate structural discrimination against indigenous peoples, by providing tools for the exercise of the rights of indigenous peoples.

134. In order to continue regularizing birth registrations and to launch mobile operations for document services of the national registry of persons in indigenous communities located in the provinces, the time frame established by decree No. 406/2015 was extended by one year.

135. To ensure that migrants may exercise their rights on an equal footing with nationals, the migrants programme of the National Institute to Combat Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism works to raise awareness about the importance of cultural diversity and its enriching contribution to society.

136. In addition, under an agreement signed with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Institute developed the #SOYMIGRANTE campaign, which seeks to raise awareness of migrants' rights.

137. The discrimination map published in 2014 shows that 40 per cent of the migrant population claims to have suffered some form of discrimination. According to the study, the group most discriminated against is Bolivian migrants, accounting for 44 per cent of perceived discrimination, followed by Peruvians (22 per cent) and Paraguayans (18 per cent); the remaining 16 per cent related to other migrant groups, including Chinese and Koreans.

138. The National Institute to Combat Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism works with NGOs and companies to achieve inclusive labour relations; in this connection, it is worth highlighting the agreement concluded with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security in order to reduce discriminatory practices.

139. The senior citizens programme has sought to raise awareness of the discrimination and marginalization facing older persons, by producing, inter alia, documents on the ageing population and discrimination, old age, and stereotypes and prejudice.

140. Other activities include special one-day street campaigns, for instance, to raise awareness about the abuse and ill-treatment of older persons or to celebrate retirees, and workshops held in retiree centres.

141. In early 2017, an interreligious dialogue was convened with representatives of different faiths, as a way to counter prejudices and stereotypes that foster faith-based discrimination and to promote the importance of religious diversity.

142. Based on the data provided by the discrimination map published in 2014 regarding prejudices and stigmatization of the Jewish gypsy, Arab, Muslim and Roma communities in Argentina, 57 per cent of the population believes that persons belonging to religious minorities suffer from little discrimination.

M. Migrants (recommendations 99.113; 99.114; 99.115; 99.118)

143. Argentina has an open immigration policy, as reflected in article 20 of the Constitution, which emphasizes the equal civil rights of migrants and nationals and requires the immediate protection of the individuals of all nations and their families in establishing residence in Argentina.

144. Act No. 25.871, on migration, provides that the State shall ensure, throughout its territory, equal access by all migrants and their families to social services, public property, health care, education, justice, work, employment and social security under the same conditions of protection, assistance and rights as those enjoyed by nationals.

145. It should be noted that of the more than 314,000 applications for residence (both permanent and temporary) processed between 2016 and June 2017, a total of 287,104 were submitted by nationals of MERCOSUR and Associated States who, in order to obtain residence in Argentina, are required to meet minimum requirements, namely: proof of identity (passport or identity card) and proof of absence of a criminal record, without needing to prove the activity (study, work, etc.) they will carry out while in Argentina.

146. Specific humanitarian issues, such as migrants in need of international protection, are handled in a similar fashion. For instance, a humanitarian admission regime was established for persons affected by the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, through the mechanism of private sponsoring, with the assistance of the State and the cooperation of international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which

facilitates the entry into Argentina for Syrian nationals and their family members through the granting of a renewable two-year humanitarian visa and liaising between the sponsors and the Argentine Government.

147. With regard to the protection of refugees, Argentina adopted the General Act on the Recognition and Protection of Refugees (Act No. 26.165), which substantially extends and broadens the scope of the rights and guarantees provided under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Asylum seekers and refugees have access to public health facilities and services, education and social security without discrimination and free of charge. In addition, asylum seekers and refugees have the right to work legally.

148. The National Commission for Refugees is tasked with designing and coordinating public policies that focus on sustainable solutions. The Commission, together with UNHCR, has developed a workplan on basic humanitarian assistance and support for local integration, in connection with which it works closely with other Government agencies and civil society organizations. In that context, the Commission obtains accommodation and food for the most vulnerable through the National Secretariat for Children, Young Persons and the Family; integration into the workforce through the Employment Secretariat of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security; specialized psychological care through the Ulloa Centre, which reports to the Ministry of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism; social assistance through the government of the City of Buenos Aires and other local authorities inside the country; and Spanish language classes through the University of Buenos Aires, among others.

N. Indigenous peoples (recommendations 99.108; 99.109; 99.110; 99.111; 99.112)

149. Detailed information on legislation, progress and practical measures adopted by Argentina to ensure the full exercise and enjoyment of the rights of indigenous peoples is available in the periodic report CERD/C/ARG/21-23, covering the period 2010-2015.

150. In 2016, the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs, the executing agency for indigenous policies, was transferred from the Ministry of Social Development to the Ministry of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism, thus recognizing indigenous communities as a rights issue. That same year saw the creation of a consultative and participatory council of indigenous peoples tasked with developing State policies on indigenous affairs.

151. Some of the council's tasks are (a) to promote the reform of Act No. 23.302, bringing it into line with international standards, proposing draft regulations on the right to prior, free and informed consultation, in accordance with the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and draft regulations on indigenous community property; (b) to strengthen sociocultural identity and self-government; and (c) to encourage the survey and management of the territory for the effective possession of lands by communities.

152. Argentina is committed to ensuring reparations in respect of the rights and needs of indigenous peoples. The National Education Act (Act No. 26.206) was an important step in that it introduced bilingual intercultural education as a specific educational approach. Specific projects are carried out by the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Sport to promote intercultural education among indigenous peoples. Especially noteworthy is the programme for bilingual, educational and social intercultural promoters and the programme for intercultural facilitators. In 2016, a total of 167 scholarships were awarded to students from indigenous communities.

153. With regard to access to water, in 2016, the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs signed an assistance and collaboration agreement with the National Water Institute, with the aim of establishing an exchange programme. Such a programme is primarily intended for joint and coordinated study and research projects and for human resource training in the knowledge, use, handling, control and protection of water resources and the environment.

154. Also in 2016, under a national plan to address critical areas in Argentina, construction was begun on infrastructure for water, sanitation and energy, sewerage, housing, schools and health centres and urban development. The plan targets rural populations of up to 10,000 inhabitants, where some indigenous communities reside.

155. The National Institute of Indigenous Affairs has two main programmes: the aforementioned land survey programme and the community strengthening programme.

156. The land survey is targeted at indigenous communities that have been entered in the national registry of indigenous communities or registered with the competent provincial authority. Its objectives are (a) to create an enabling environment for the exercise of constitutional rights; (b) to ensure indigenous participation in designing projects carried out under the programme; and (c) to carry out the technical, legal and cadastral survey of the ownership status of lands traditionally occupied by indigenous communities.

157. The National Institute of Indigenous Affairs has already signed agreements with almost all the provinces to enable implementation of the Act.

158. As at March 2017, a total of 805 communities throughout the country had been surveyed and approximately 8,306,350.36 hectares of land had been surveyed with regard to their current, traditional and public occupation by indigenous communities.

159. The results of the programme by province, number of communities and hectares surveyed, as well as recent legislative and institutional progress made, can be found in the report CERD/C/ARG/21-23 and in the supplementary information submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

O. Disabilities (recommendations 99.98; 99.99; 99.100; 99.101; 99.102; 99.103; 99.106; 99.107)

160. Act No. 26.994, approving the Civil and Commercial Code, resulted in better alignment with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, particularly in terms of recognizing the legal capacity of persons with disabilities.

161. With regard to integration into the workforce, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security is carrying out the PROMOVER programme, which is designed to help persons with disabilities to realize their career project, by improving their professional competencies and skills.

162. Regarding access to justice for persons with disabilities, the Government created a national programme to help persons with disabilities in their dealings with the bodies responsible for the administration of justice and an electoral accessibility programme, which is run by the Ministry of the Interior and Transport. The first of these programmes is targeted at judicial staff, prison officers, security forces, civil servants and civil society organizations.

163. It is worth noting the adoption of Act No. 27.269, under which the State has an obligation, through the National Advisory Commission on the Integration of Persons with Disabilities, to prepare a handbook on the rights of persons with disabilities.[25] The Act stipulates that the handbook shall provide information, in a clear, concise and accessible fashion, to persons with disabilities on their basic rights under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the specific relevant laws in force, as well as the mechanisms for enforcing them. It also provides that when delivering a formal certificate of disability, assessment boards should also give persons with disabilities a copy of the rights handbook. The boards are allocated a specific budget to that end.

P. Crimes against humanity (recommendations 99.68; 99.71; 99.72 and 99.73)

164. A total of 593 cases of crimes against humanity were reported.[26] Of these, 284 are under investigation, 118 have been sent for trial, 15 are at trial and 176 have gone to trial but a final judgment has yet to be handed down.

165. A total of 2,780 accused persons were tried, resulting in 750 convictions and 77 acquittals.

166. A total of 794 accused persons have not been tried. The remaining cases have not gone ahead for lack of grounds, because the accused person has not yet been summoned or for health-related reasons.

167. A total of 45 accused persons are fugitives, 149 are not being detained, 1,044 are in custody and 542 have died (467 are awaiting judgment and 75 have been tried and convicted/acquitted).

168. On detainees: 518 are on house arrest, 508 are being in held in federal or provincial prisons, 6 are in hospital and 6 are being held by security forces.

169. The Ministry of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism acts as plaintiff in cases involving the investigation of crimes committed during the last dictatorship.

170. The timing of proceedings is influenced by several factors, most of which are linked to the particularities of individual jurisdictions, with complications arising with large numbers of witnesses, vast case files, backlogs and "mega-cases". In order to mitigate these circumstances, mechanisms were developed to speed up the proceedings. For instance, the Supreme Court established and convened an inter-branch commission and the National Court of Criminal Cassation recommended a set of good practices designed to prevent revictimization of witnesses and to speed up the proceedings.

171. In 2016, through the Truth and Justice Programme, 842 witnesses were contacted and notified; the conditions of exposure and vulnerability to which 2,734 witnesses might be exposed were assessed; and 10 investigation reports were submitted, either at the request of the courts or at the initiative of the Programme.

Q. Legislation (recommendations 99.5 and 99.9)

172. See section II.

R. Administration of justice (recommendations 99.69; 99.70)

173. With regard to the recommendation on the protection of witnesses and victims, measures are taken under the National Programme for the Protection of Witnesses and the Accused, established by Act No. 25.764 of 2003, to preserve the safety of witnesses and accused persons whose life or bodily integrity is at risk and who have made an outstanding contribution to a judicial investigation under federal jurisdiction concerning offences covered by articles 142 bis and 170 of the Criminal Code and by Acts Nos. 23.737 and 25.241.

174. If required by the courts, this mechanism may also apply in cases involving organized crime or institutional violence or when the significance and political and criminal interest of the investigation so warrant.

175. The Programme is an essential tool in the investigation, prosecution and punishment of organized crime and related offences. It strengthens the justice system as an effective mechanism for safeguarding evidence and providing protection to citizens who collaborate with the authorities of the administration of justice.

176. A general operational protocol covers topics such as administrative procedures, management of funds, security forces, transfers, confidentiality, assistance measures and risk analysis. In addition, there are specific protocols depending on the situation of the person requiring protection, for instance, its relation to trafficking, organized crime or crimes against humanity.

177. The "Dr. Fernando Ulloa" Assistance Centre for Victims of Human Rights Violations seeks to (a) assist and support the victims of human rights violations through support systems and therapeutic approaches at the national level; (b) execute strategies with a view to setting up a national network of mental health professionals to facilitate referrals

to public services; and (c) train interdisciplinary teams in carrying out the interdisciplinary assessments required by the national legislation on reparations.

178. The comprehensive assistance and referral of victims of serious human rights violations applies to victims of State terrorism and institutional violence, as well as victims of the República Cromañón nightclub fire, where "victims" refers to those directly affected and their family members.

179. Between 2012 and 2017, the Ulloa Centre assisted over 2,000 victims, including support to victims testifying as witnesses in trials for human rights violations under the national plan for comprehensive assistance and support of plaintiffs and victims testifying in court in cases of State terrorism. Between 2012 and 2017, over 1,500 victims were provided support in legal proceedings throughout the country.

180. Especially noteworthy is the assistance provided to victims of institutional violence in the context of the events of December 2001 and the victims who testified in court over the cover-up of the bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association.

181. In the same period, more than 60 teams from provincial and municipal public health institutions were given training on the legislation on reparations.

182. In order to facilitate access to justice for the most vulnerable, federal access to justice centres have been set up to offer early counselling and professional legal and psychosocial support. These centres provide consultations, raise awareness among the target population and offer community mediation in cases pertaining to that population's rights. They are located throughout the country, comprising a multidisciplinary team of lawyers, psychologist, social workers and administrative staff trained in community problem-solving for issues relating to family, housing, subsidies, disabilities, work and conflicts between neighbours, among others.

183. Since 2016, the Ministry of Justice has been promoting a set of initiatives known as the "2020 Justice Programme" to improve and strengthen the judicial system. The Programme provides for an institutional dialogue aimed at developing, executing and assessing policies to build a justice system that offers socially relevant results and resolves conflicts in a timely, robust manner. The Programme is also a tool for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, by building robust institutions that guarantee access to justice (SDG 16).

184. The Programme also seeks progress in areas outside the scope of the courts. Such initiatives, provided for under the programme "Justice for You", include training and activities related especially to community mediation. The 2020 Justice Programme involves the active participation of citizens and NGOs in forums for dialogue and discussion that are coordinated by Government officials and representatives of civil society.

S. Freedom of expression (recommendation 99.83)

185. Decree No. 267/15 established a national communications authority, a commission tasked with drafting a bill to reform, update and consolidate Acts Nos. 26.522 and 27.078, and a federal communications council.

186. The national communications authority is an independent, decentralized body within the Ministry of Communications that serves as the implementing authority of the aforementioned legislation and that will report to the General Syndicate of the Nation and of the Office of the Auditor-General (art. 85 of the Constitution).

187. The reforms to be introduced are expected to restructure the matrix of private and State means of audiovisual communication in order to avoid undue concentrations and to prevent attempts to exert editorial influence, to promote the strengthening of telecommunications networks and to ensure equal access to those networks, within a framework of respect for freedom of expression.

T. Access to information (recommendations 99.77; 99.78; 99.79; 99.80)

188. Act No. 27.275 of 2016 on the right of access to public information for the promotion of citizen participation and transparent management, provides for the opportunity to seek, obtain, request, receive, copy, analyse, reprocess, reuse and freely redistribute information belonging to the authorities that make up the State.[27]

189. The Act was regulated by Decree No. 206/2017, which will enter into force on 29 September 2017.

IV. Participation in international forums

190. Argentina actively participates in the major forums on the prevention of genocide. In this regard, it is a member of the Global Network of the Responsibility to Protect Focal Points. In addition to being a member of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, Argentina participates in Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes, an international cooperation network through which various networks for genocide prevention and the responsibility to protect may deepen cooperation in preventing such mass atrocities. Argentina is also the only Latin American country that is a full member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Furthermore, approval for the creation of a national preventive mechanism against torture is under way.

191. In June 2016, Argentina joined the Freedom Online Coalition. Within the Coalition, it participated actively in the working group on terms of reference, whose mandate concluded with the adoption of new terms of reference for the Coalition in May 2017, and it continues to be involved in the "Friends of the Chair" group.

Notes

[1] https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/#!DetalleNorma/138140/20151211 publicado en el B.O. 10 de diciembre de 2015.

[2] https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/#!DetalleNorma/166561/20170717 publicado en el B.O. 14 de julio de 2017.

[3] Decisión Administrativa 483/16.

[4] Reglamentada por Decreto 602/2013.

[5] Otros ejemplos aparecen citados en el cuerpo de este informe en sus secciones temáticas específicas, por ejemplo, actividades realizadas por el INADI.

[6] Marzo de 2017.

[7] http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fARG%2f5-6&Lang=en.

[8] Mediante Decretos PEN 90/09, 92/10, 278/11, 294/12, 339/13 y 297/14.

[9] Véase, Párrafo 21, E/C12/ARG/4.

[10] Consultar Informe CEDAW/C/ARG/7.

[11] Funciona en la órbita de la Secretaría de Derechos Humanos y Pluralismo Cultural.

[12] http://www.cnm.gob.ar/linea144.php#Est.

[13] http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/ARG/INT_CEDAW_AIS_ARG_25805_S.pdf.

[14] http://www.cnm.gob.ar/observatorio.php.

[15] https://www.justicia2020.gob.ar/debate-la-implementacion-registro-nacional-datos-geneticos/.

[16] http://www.msal.gob.ar/images/stories/banners/gestion_sanitaria_2009-2015/informe-gestion-2009-2015.pdf. Ver Plan para la reducción de la mortalidad materna, infantil de la mujer y el adolescente. Las jurisdicciones impresadas al Plan Operativo fueron las que concentraban el mayor número absoluto de defunciones maternas e infantiles.

[17] Informe Anual de Gestión 2014 PNSSyPR.

[18] Disponible en http://www.msal.gob.ar/images/stories/bes/graficos/0000000690cnt-Protocolo%20ILE%20Web.pdf.

[19] Art. 86 del CPN: Incurrirán en las penas establecidas en el artículo anterior y sufrirán, además, inhabilitación especial por doble tiempo que el de la condena, los médicos, cirujanos, parteras o farmacéuticos que abusaren de su ciencia o arte para causar el aborto o cooperaren a causarlo. El aborto practicado por un médico diplomado con el consentimiento de la mujer encinta, no es punible: 1° Si se ha hecho con el fin de evitar un peligro para la vida o la salud de la madre y si este peligro no

puede ser evitado por otros medios. 2° Si el embarazo proviene de una violación o de un atentado al pudor cometido sobre una mujer idiota o demente. En este caso, el consentimiento de su representante legal deberá ser requerido para el aborto.

[20] http://www.msal.gob.ar/images/stories/bes/graficos/0000000695cnt-0000000587cnt-Guia-para-la-atencion-integral-de-mujeres-que-cursan-un-aborto.pdf.

La guía fue publicada en el 2015 y está basada en la Guía para el mejoramiento de la atención post aborto publicada por la Dirección Nacional de Maternidad e Infancia del Ministerio de Salud de la Nación (DINAMI) en agosto de 2005 (con segunda y tercera edición en septiembre de 2007 y diciembre de 2009). Esta guía fue aprobada por Resolución Ministerial núm. 989, del 9 de agosto de 2005, en el marco del Programa Nacional de Garantía de Calidad de la Atención Médica, implementado por Resolución (MSyAS) núm. 1459, del 1 de junio de 1993.

[21] Reglamentada por Decreto 111/2015.

[22] Para ampliar la información, consultar el informe CAT/C/ARG/5-6 y la información complementaria.

[23] Resolución CFE N° 286/16.

[24] http://www.deis.msal.gov.ar/index.php/indicadores-basicos/.

[25] Disponible en http://www.jus.gob.ar/areas-tematicas/acceso-a-la-justicia-para-personas-con-discapacidad/cartilla-de-derechos.aspx.

[26] Informe estadístico de la Procuraduría de Crímenes contra la Humanidad al mes de marzo de 2017.

[27] http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/265000-269999/265949/norma.htm.